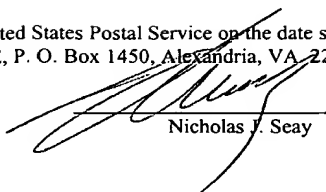




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Signature and Deposit: May 27, 2003


Nicholas J. Seay

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Richard L. Atkinson
Nikhil V. Dhurandhar

Date: May 27, 2003

Serial No.: 09/619,117

Examiner: Ali Reza Salimi

Filed: 07/19/2000

Art Unit: 1648

Title: VIRAL OBESITY METHODS
AND COMPOSITIONS

Our Ref: 710395.90010

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
MAIL STOP RCE
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 25, 2002 in the file of this application, the applicants amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 2, 5 and 6 as follows:

D! confid.
see E1)
2. (Amended Three Times) A method of determining whether an obese person is suffering from viral obesity caused by adenovirus type 36p, the method comprising the steps of isolating from the person a sample selected from the group consisting of a body fluid, feces, a sample of tissue and a sample of an organ from the person, obtaining an antibody specific to an epitope on an adenovirus type 36p, and; assaying the sample [by an immunoanalytical method] using the antibody to test for the presence of [an] ~~the epitope of~~